

Planting Pumpkins

Pumpkins do need a lot of care and attention, but are lots of fun to grow! Plant pumpkin seeds in May and with careful looking after, you could have your very own pumpkins ready for October. Pumpkin plants do grow very big, so check the seed packet to find out how much space you will need.



What you need

- Small pots
- Pumpkin seeds
- Compost
- Plant labels

What to do

1. Fill the pots with compost.
2. Make a 2cm deep hole in each pot.
3. Place a pumpkin seed on its side in each hole, and cover with compost.
4. Write a plant label and place it inside the pot.
5. Put the pots in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill and wait for the seedlings to grow.
6. Plant the growing pumpkin plants outside when all risks of frost have passed. You may want to protect the young plants with horticultural fleece or cloches for the first few weeks.
7. Make sure the plants receive a lot of sunlight and water them regularly. Protect them from slugs and snails, as they will eat the growing fruit.
8. Harvest your pumpkins in autumn, making sure you pick them before the first frosts arrive.

Ways to extend this activity

Find out ways to use the pumpkin flesh, such as pumpkin pie or cupcakes. Investigate where pumpkins originate from and what the climate is like there. Make cloches for the pumpkin seedlings out of old plastic bottles.

National Curriculum Links

Observe seeds. Describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature. Explore the requirements of plants for growth. Identify and describe the different parts of plants. Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants. Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants.